

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305266
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 IGA-02 AGRE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP:JMO'GRADY:BT
APPROVED BY ARA/RPP:CEFINAN
ARA/AND:D.COX
SNM:M.CHESHES

-----128207 230242Z /62

R 222003Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305266

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SNAR

SUBJECT:OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 11501

FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED RE INQUIRY CONTAINED PARA 2
OF REFTEL: WHILE NO PRECISE INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY
AVAILABLE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES ON COLOMBIA PER SE,
INFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM MEXICAN EXPERIENCE INDICATES
MOST SUITABLE CONDITIONS FOR CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES
ARE ELEVATION OF FOUR TO SIX THOUSAND FEET; OR IN
TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 60 TO 70 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT.
WHILE SEASON FOR CULTIVATION WOULD VARY WITH CLIMATIC AND
OTHER CONDITIONS, HARVEST PEAKS ARE USUALLY LATE FEBRUARY
TO EARLY APRIL AND LATE OCTOBER TO EARLY DECEMBER.
POPPIES GENERALLY NOT GROWN IN LOWER, HOTTER AREAS BECAUSE
OF SUSCEPTIBILITY TO PESTS AND FUNGI, OR IN AREAS WHERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 305266

CROP WOULD REACH HARVEST STAGE DURING RAINY SEASON, SINCE
OPIUM LATEX IS VERY WATER SOLUBLE. THIS INFORMATION
SUPPLIED WITH CAVEAT THAT CONDITIONS IN MEXICO MAY NOT BE
ENTIRELY APPLICABLE TO COLOMBIA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE305266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMO\GRADY:BT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770478-1025
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771225/aaaaauqp.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 68d2cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BOGOTA 11501
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 144212
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION IN COLOMBIA
TAGS: SNAR
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/68d2cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009